

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 29, 1999

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-04)

to: Allyn Meuleman – KEWN/Boise
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Krueger Acquisition, Project No. 95-057-00

Budget No: F3930

Wildlife Management Techniques of Actions Addressed Under this Supplement Analysis (See App A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):

1.0 Fee-Title Acquisition, 2.0 Plant Propagation Techniques (Transplanting, seeding, irrigation, & fertilization), 4. Water Development and Management Techniques (wells, diversions, spring development, check dams/impoundments), 5.0 Water Distribution Techniques (pipelines, culverts, drainage ditches/conveyance channels), 6.0 Fire Management Techniques (prompt fire suppression and fuels management, natural fire management), 7.0 Vegetation Management: Enhancement and control (herbicides, mechanical removal, biological control, hand pulling, prescribed burn), 8.0 Species Management Techniques (introduction, reintroduction, or augmentation of wildlife populations, control of predators and nuisance animals), 9.0 Multiple Use Techniques (integration of wildlife habitat and crop production, provision of educational and recreational opportunities, facility development, grazing), 10.0 Transportation/Access Techniques (land use restrictions, road maintenance, road decommissioning).

Location: Ada County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA and The Idaho Department of Fish and Game are proposing to purchase 166 acres of wildlife habitat in the Boise Foothills as partial mitigation for Black Canyon Dam. The property is located in Section 2, T2N, R3E, Ada County, Idaho, on the north side of State Highway 21, across from Sandy Beach Point. The terrain is steep and somewhat rocky, and is vegetated with natural grasses and sagebrush. A small creek crosses the northwest corner of the site and a natural spring is located near the northern boundary. The adjacent properties to the southwest consist of residential acreage with the remaining adjacent properties being undeveloped.

The property is being purchased to protect a critical migration corridor for wintering mule deer. The Boise Foothills provides winter range for approximately 35-45 percent of the mule deer in the vicinity. With one-third of Idaho's mule deer population living in the Treasure Valley (Boise), densities can be as high as 270-deer/square mile. This particular parcel is the only corridor for mule deer to use in deep snow years. This area also provides nesting and rearing habitat for many species of neotropical birds using riparian and shrub-steppe communities through spring and summer.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision.

Section 7 consultation was conducted on April 1, 1999, by Michele Beucler and it was determined that the project would have no effect on the bald eagle, gray wolf, western small-footed myotis, and the redband trout, as listed under the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

The Heritage Preservation Resources conducted an Archaeological and Historical Survey of the property in February 1999. A historic windmill (aermotor windmill) was found on the property, however, it was found not to be eligible by itself because it is considered an isolated artifact that could potentially be eligible in a larger agricultural context. Therefore, there were no further investigations needed and it was determined that there would be no impacts to archaeological or historical resources.

On February 10, 1999, Maxim Technologies conducted an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) – Transaction Screen Process (TSP). The objective of the ESA-TSP is to identify “recognized environmental conditions” in general accordance with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard E1528-93. The three conditions found on the property during the site visit are discussed and were found to show no signs of hazardous contamination or any potential for hazardous contamination. An empty plastic tank, which appeared to be approximately 1,000 gallons in capacity, was observed near the northwest edge of the reservoir. The tank was intended for water storage and had apparently never been used. An empty metal tank, which appeared to be approximately 500 gallons in capacity, was observed on the property; this was part of a watering system for the orchard. Two pole-mounted transformers, owned by Idaho Power, were located near the pumphouse. They were not labeled as to PCB content, there were no signs of staining or leakage at the time of the site visit. If a test is necessary, Idaho Power will perform it for a fee.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 11.2d.1 of the Norwest Power Planning council’s Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Wildlife Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-2965) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

Leslie H. Kelleher
KECN Project Lead
Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group

CONCUR: _____ DATE: _____
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
Archaeological Survey Report
Environmental Site Assessment-Transaction Screen Process
2 E-mails regarding ESA consultation